

# ABOUT ALBERTA

THE NEW CANADIAN PROVINCE JUST EAST OF THE ROCKIES.

Edmonton, the Future Metropolis of the North and its Arctic Trade—Queer Immigrants—The Galicians—A Chat with the Lieutenant Governor—What Americans Are Doing—Political Canada—The West to Control in the Future—The Possibility of Annexation.

Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.  
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EDMONTON.—I write this at Edmonton, the biggest city of central Alberta and the depot for the vast territories which stretch from here to the Arctic ocean. Edmonton is the northernmost point of continuous railroad connection on this continent. It lies 359 miles above our state of Montana and there is a line of railroads from it to the edge of Central America. As it is now, one can go in a sleeping car from the isthmus of Tehuantepec clear across Mexico and the United States and this far into Canada. When the railroads now planned are completed there will be an extension northward to Alaska, and if the road should be built across Bering strait, we may some day be able to go from Calais, on the English channel, by way of Paris, Moscow and the trans-Siberian road over to North America, and on down through here to the isthmus of Panama and thence by the intercontinental line to the strait of Magellan, or almost to Cape Horn by rail.

Edmonton has already two railroads. It is reached by the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern. By this time next year the Grand Trunk Pacific will have been built through it, and eventually there will be extensions

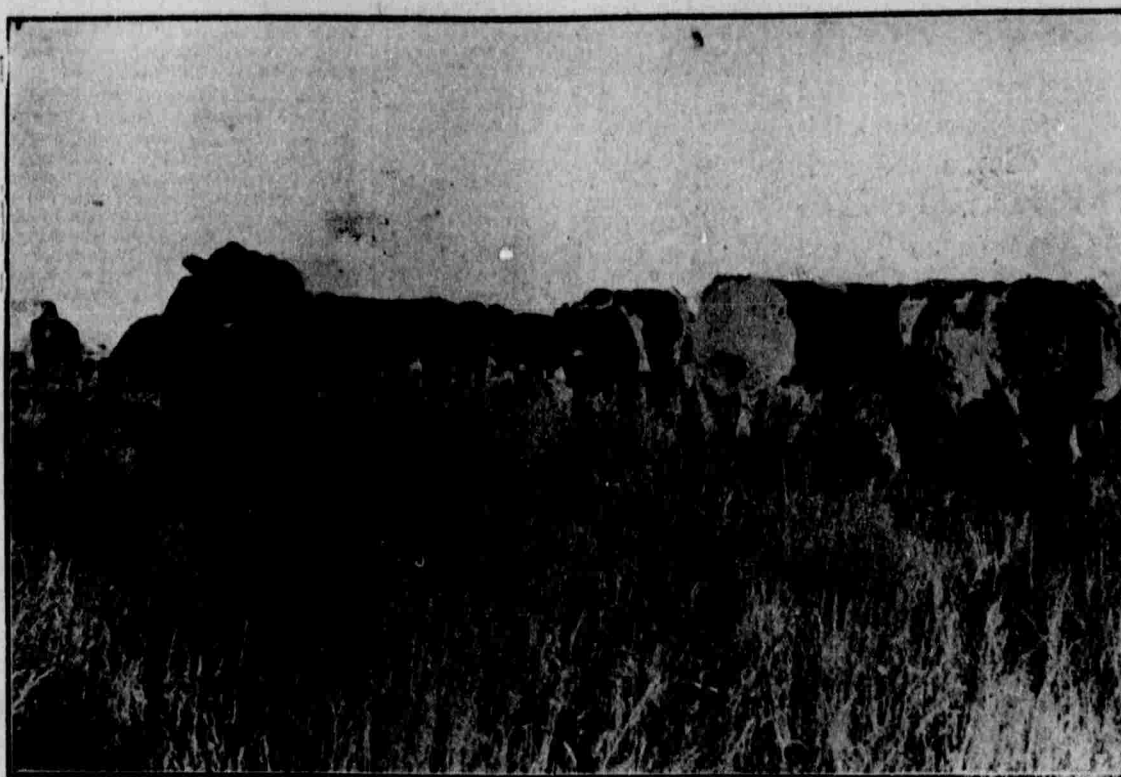
New York or London. This trade made Edmonton a town before the railroads came, and with the new lines here and building, it promises to become one of the biggest cities of the northwest. The place is rapidly growing. It has now something like 10,000 people, and its citizens claim that it will equal Winnipeg some day.

Edmonton lies on the north bank of the Saskatchewan river, a stream almost as big as the Mississippi, and more than a thousand miles in length. The river here flows through a valley about a mile wide, the stream itself being about 1,000 feet wide. There are high bluffs on each side of the Saskatchewan, and Edmonton is built on one of the bluffs.

The town winds its way with the river, and Main street, which is laid out along old Indian trails, is as crooked as a dog's hind leg. The town is like most of those of the west. It has buildings of all shapes, materials and heights. The older ones are of one story, but the newer ones are of brick and stone and many are four stories high. The prices of business property are out of sight. A 50-foot lot on Main street sold last week for \$20,000, and a common demand for land in the business section is \$400 or \$500 per foot front.

## MUCH LIKE ST. LOUIS.

Edmonton, as far as its location is concerned, is much like St. Louis. It is on a good-sized river surrounded by a farming region, almost as rich as the Mississippi valley, with a vast country



FAT CATTLE IN THE MIDST OF LUXURIANT ALBERTA PRAIRIE GRASS.

or out in the open awaiting purchasers. I notice that the cattle are feeding out of doors. The grass is green. It is cured on the stalk, and the animals are fat, although there is some snow on the ground.

## THE WESTERN CANADA CLIMATE.

I am surprised at the climate of this part of Canada. It is as mild as that of our central states for the greater part of the winter. The coldest part of Canada is farther eastward. About Winnipeg the thermometer frequently falls to 40 below zero, and the cold skin coat is in evidence from November till May. Here the weather is tempered by the warm winds which blow over the Rockies. It is heated by the Japanese current to such an extent that it keeps green the year round and takes the edge off the cold of Edmonton and Calgary. Edmonton is in latitude 54. It is several hundred miles south of St. Petersburg and in what the Europeans think the heart of the temperate zone.

Indeed the bulk of progressive Europe lies north of the Forty-ninth parallel, which forms our northern boundary. All the British Isles, Holland, Belgium, Scandinavia, a large part of France, two-thirds of Germany, and about three-fourths of European Russia are north of that parallel. St. Petersburg, for instance, is hundreds of miles north of Winnipeg, which is in the latitude of Paris. Berlin is also far higher up on the globe. Western Europe is kept warm by the gulf stream. Similar influences warm Edmonton, but they come from the Japanese current, and are moderated considerably by the wide stretch of mountains which must cross before they reach here.

## FARMING IN ALBERTA.

This whole state of Alberta is comparatively temperate. The climate of Calgary is much like that of Denver, and all along the foothills of the Rockies the weather is mild. The state is adapted to mixed farming. It produces enormous crops of oats, barley and timothy and both winter and spring wheat. Within 40 miles from here they are growing oats as tall as a man, with timothy quite as high. I had myself photographed today between sheaves of oats and timothy with a little bundle of winter wheat leaning against my chest. The wheat almost tickled my chin, and the oats and timothy were as high as my head. The people claim that the oats produced here will run from 75 to 100 bushels per acre and about 40 pounds to the bushel. Winter wheat is said to produce 40 bushels per acre, and the yields of barley are large. The farmers are now raising barley for hogs. They claim that barley-fed hogs are better than corn-fed hogs and that they can be soon supplied Canada with pork. At present much of the hog products come from the United States, there being a tariff of 2 cents a pound against our pork. These western Canadians do not understand pork packing, and most of the Edmonton stores are now supplied by our beef trust.

## A NEW CANADIAN STATE.

Alberta is a brand new state. It was a part of the northwest territory until last September, but it now has a governor of its own and has members in the Canadian parliament. The province has an area of 253,000 square miles. It begins with Montana and runs north through 11 degrees of latitude. Its western boundary is along the line of the Rocky mountains, and on the east it is bounded by Saskatchewan. The province is about 400 miles wide at the center and it is 650 miles long.

The southern part of Alberta is devoted to ranching. The country there is dry, grows rich grasses, horses and cattle. Many of the stock farms are owned by Americans, who have winter residences at Medicine Hat and Calgary. The central part of the province is given up to mixed farming. It is largely settled along the lines of the railroads, and the whole of this part has been opened to homesteading. The northern part is said to be good, but so far the only settlements are along the Peace river, and these are few and far between. They chiefly consist of Hudson's Bay posts and Indian settlements, at some of which are mission stations, the missionaries raising wheat.

## TALK WITH LIEUT. GOV. BULYEA.

I met at Edmonton Mr. G. H. V. Bulyea, the lieutenant governor of this new province, and had a talk with him about his principality and its new citizens. Said he:

"Alberta promises to be one of the most populous parts of the new Canada. We have already about 200,000 people and can support several millions. We are having a large immigration from the United States, and fully one-third of our citizens are Americans, the remainder being equally divided between the Canadians and the Europeans."

"What are the Americans doing?" I asked. "They are mostly farmers, engaged in raising wheat and other grains. Not a few are cattlemen, who have come across the boundary, and are now running large herds about Calgary and Medicine Hat. We have also a colony of Mormons, who have irrigated lands about Lethbridge, where they are doing mixed farming and sugar-beet raising."

## WHAT KIND OF SETTLERS ARE THE AMERICANS?

"They are the very best. The most of them bring money with them, and they buy lands in addition to the homesteads, which they get for nothing. They understand how to farm, and are able to go to work at once in the right way. The most of our Canadian and European immigration comes in with empty pockets, or with little more than enough to support themselves while opening up their farms. They are chiefly homesteaders. Many of the Americans take advantage of the homestead act, but nearly every one buys some land adjoining him."

## SOME QUEER EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS.

"Tell me something about your European immigration, governor, I understand you are getting the off-scourings of the southeastern part of that continent."

"I do not believe that," was the reply. "The most of our immigrants come from the British Isles, and from Germany, Scandinavia and Iceland. We have also Galicians. They come from Austria-Hungary, and might be called Austrian Poles. These men are thrifty, and although they are ignorant, they will in time make good citizens. They are not satisfied until their farms are broken and well stocked. The average Canadian pioneer sees first after his physical comforts. He puts up a good house and then tries to pay for it. The Galician is satisfied with a few logs daubed with mud. He uses this until

he has paid for his farm. His whole family aids him, the women and children working in the fields, as well as the men. Every dollar is saved, and it is only when the family has gotten ahead that it builds a good home."

## NORTHERN ALBERTA.

"Do you expect much from the northern part of your province?"

"Yes. There is no doubt but that we can raise wheat in every part of it and we have the advantage of being able to do mixed farming. This ought to be a great dairy country, but the trouble is that our men will not milk. Farm hands look upon that as a woman's business, and they cannot be hired to handle cows. We grow oats and flax here about Edmonton. They are raising wheat along the Peace river, and there is reason to believe that it can be raised beyond our state. I met a man the other day who had just come from the southern shores of the Great Slave lake. That is as far above the United States, I should say, as St. Paul is above New Orleans. He tells me that the soil is good there and that spring

what can be matured. You see the land drops from here down to the Arctic ocean. The lower the altitude the warmer the climate, provided it is not too far north. I have no doubt one might raise wheat for hundreds of miles north of Edmonton."

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF EDMONTON, GOVERNOR?

"It will be the largest city of the northwest. It will be the key to the whole region and the supply point for the Mackenzie river. When the Hudson's Bay route to Europe is completed a great part of the goods from Asia will pass through here and we will have a short haul for our products to that point. I doubt not we shall some day have railroads from here to Hudson's Bay."

## POLITICAL CANADA.

"What do you think of the future of this country—politically?" I asked.

"It is great," was the reply. "We have in northwestern Canada as much arable land as is in the whole United States. The country will undoubtedly support millions, and it is bound to be the most important part of the dominion."

"Do you think it will ever have more power politically than eastern Canada?"

"I do. Under our old form of government this region sent only four members to parliament. Alberta will now have eight members and Saskatchewan about the same. Our representation is fixed, as you know, by the status of Quebec. The constitution provides that Quebec shall have 65 members and no more, and that the ratio of all the other provinces shall be the same as that of Quebec. At every census the population of Quebec is divided by 65, and the quotient forms the ratio of representation for the other provinces. This ratio is now about 25,000. As our country grows its representation must increase, and when we have 10,000,000 people, as we may have, we will be the ruling part of Canada."

## EASTERN CANADA VS. WESTERN CANADA.

"But will the two countries not split apart? Eastern Canada is largely manufacturing; western Canada will always be more or less agricultural."

"I think not," said Gov. Bulyea. "I look for a harmonious future."

"The eastern Canadians are for a

high tariff against the United States."

"Many of us believe in reciprocity,"

replied the lieutenant governor. "We should like closer trade relations with

you, and we will, I believe, eventually

have reciprocal treaties. We expect

some day to be filling your bread

reached their limit, and your popula-

tion is so growing that you will have

to buy wheat of us. When that time

comes we will break the tariff wall,

where it can get the most for its grain,

know that eastern Canada is anxious

for high protection. There is a differ-

ent feeling here and this will increase

as the country grows."

## ANNEXATION WITH UNITED STATES.

"Will Canada ever be annexed to the

United States?"

"No. Such a thing might have come

to pass 15 years ago, when we wanted

your country to join us in treaties of

reciprocity. You refused and we have

learned that we can stand alone. We

have discovered that we have a rocky

estate in our undeveloped resources,

and we do not intend to divide it with

any people. We are glad to welcome

citizens. We are glad of your dollars

and glad to have you work and trade

with us, but as to our country being

annexed to yours, that possibility has

forever passed away."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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feel stiff and sore and joints are pain-

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the blood, which causes rheumatism,

and puts an end to the pain and stiff-

ness.

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## ICE RAILROAD OF THE OLDEN TIME.



The picture herewith presented illustrates a scene which was not of infrequent occurrence half a century ago. It was before the days of great bridges, and in severe winter weather, when the ferryboats were frozen in, railway tracks were laid on the ice and traffic was continued in that way until a thaw intervened. The particular point illustrated was at Havre de Grace, Md., on the railroad between Philadelphia and Baltimore, which even then was one of its most important in the country.

# The Greatest of All Irrigation Projects

ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT TODAY, CONSTRUCTED BY THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

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## ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRES

Of the best irrigated land in the world lying immediately on the northern side of the Main Line of the Canadian Pacific Ry., at Gleichen and extending back ten miles, all in a solid block,

At From \$18.00 to \$25.00 an Acre,

ON EXCEPTIONALLY EASY TERMS

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You get moisture when needed, where needed and as much as needed.

READ WHAT DR. ELWOOD MEADE, AMERICA'S HIGHEST AUTHORITY ON IRRIGATION, SAYS after careful examination of the entire project: "The soil of the irrigable area is fertile and well adapted to the application of water. The water supply is ample and the rights of the Company thereto are secured."

In the very heart of this so-called Gleichen tract there has been raised this year without irrigation 45 bushels of Wheat and 80 to 100 bushels of Oats to the acre. What will this land not do with irrigation? We have some attached areas of non-irrigable land which are covered with a splendid growth of grass and are perfect for grazing lands, which we will sell in conjunction with the irrigated land. This will make an ideal combination of irrigated and non-irrigated land for farming and stock-raising. As there are comparatively few of these combination farms, it will be well for you to make a selection at once.

Ample hotel accommodation at Gleichen will provide you comfort, and we will furnish teams and drivers to show you over the tract, free of expense. Upon application to the undersigned, stating that you want to inspect this land, we will furnish you with a certificate enabling you to buy a ticket over the Canadian Pacific Railway lines from any point at which you wish to start to Gleichen and return, at a rate of one cent a mile from the point on the main line West of Calgary to the coast.

These lands will be placed on sale at merely nominal prices, our object being to establish a great agricultural community rather than to sell these lands at their real value, either as judged by their crop production or the prices of irrigated lands elsewhere. The Canadian Pacific Railway will forever maintain these canals and laterals at the nominal cost of 500 per acre per annum. The terms of sale will be one-quarter cash and the balance in five equal annual installments at 6% interest. This land will be sold in tracts of 80 acres and as much more as you desire. Remember, first-come, first-chose.

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